

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application: Mersch, Gerhard

Serial No.: To be assigned

Filed: To be assigned

Group Art Unit:

Examiner:

For: DOOR MODULE FOR MOTOR VEHICLE DOORS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of this application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-6 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims.

7. (New) A door module for use in a motor vehicle door, comprising:

a system carrier;

a window lifter unit supported on the system carrier;

an electric drive unit associated with the window lifter unit;

control electronics for controlling the electric drive unit; and

a housing that contains at least the electric drive unit and the control electronics, the housing having a first portion at least partially enclosing the control electronics, a portion of the system carrier cooperating with the first portion of the housing to completely enclose the control electronics.

8. (New) The door module of claim 7, wherein the window lifter unit includes guide members and cables that are driven by the electric drive unit, one end of the cables connected to drivers for a window glass, the other end of the cables applied to a cable drum that is driven by the drive unit.

9. (New) The door module of claim 7, wherein the system carrier comprises a plate.

10. (New) The door module of claim 7, including a seal supported on one of the first housing portion or the portion of the system carrier enclosing the control electronics, the seal sealing an interface between the first housing portion and the portion of the carrier when the portions are secured together.

11. (New) The door module of claim 7, including plug-in contacts for communicating power and signals supported on the portion of the system carrier and cooperating contacts supported on the first housing portion and coupled with the control electronics such that the plug-in contacts and the cooperating contacts are engaged in an electrically conductive manner when the first housing portion is secured to the portion of the system carrier.

12. (New) The door module of claim 7, including fasteners that secure the first housing portion to the portion of the system carrier.

13. (New) The door module of claim 12, wherein the fasteners comprise screws.

14. (New) The door module of claim 7, including a locking projection supported by the system carrier that engages a cooperating portion of the first housing portion to secure the first housing portion against the portion of the system carrier.

15. (New) The door module of claim 14, including two opposing locking projections that are resilient for snappingly engaging cooperating surfaces on the first housing portion.

16. (New) A door module assembly for use in a vehicle door, comprising:
- a support plate having a contour adapted to fit within a vehicle door structure;
 - at least one conductor member adapted to convey an electrical signal having one end;
 - an electrical connector coupled with the end of the conductor and supported by the support plate; and
 - a housing containing at least one electrically conductive element and at least partially enclosing the conductive element, the housing cooperating with the support plate to completely enclose the conductive element and wherein the conductive element is electrically coupled with the electrical connector supported on the support plate when the housing is secured to the support plate.
17. (New) The assembly of claim 16, including a seal that seals off an interface between the housing and the support plate.
18. (New) The assembly of claim 16, including a plurality of conductors and a plurality of connectors associated with the conductors, the connectors being supported by the support plate and a corresponding plurality of the cooperating connectors associated with the control electronics within the housing.

19. (New) A method of assembling a door module assembly having a support plate and a housing that at least partially houses control electronics for a window drive unit, comprising the steps of:

supporting at least one electrical connector associated with at least one conductor on the support plate; and

securing the housing to the support plate to thereby completely enclose the control electronics and to make an electrical connection between the control electronics and the electrical connector.

20. (New) The method of claim 19, including securing the housing to the support plate using screws.

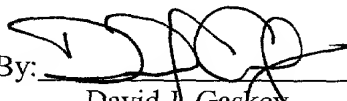
21. (New) The method of claim 19, including securing the housing to the support plate by snapping the housing into position against the support plate.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests substantive examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the enclosed Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail "Post Office to Addressee," postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington D.C. 20231 on August 21, 2001.


Theresa M. Palmateer

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